

#69

Lady Like

Exploring & Expressing Femininity



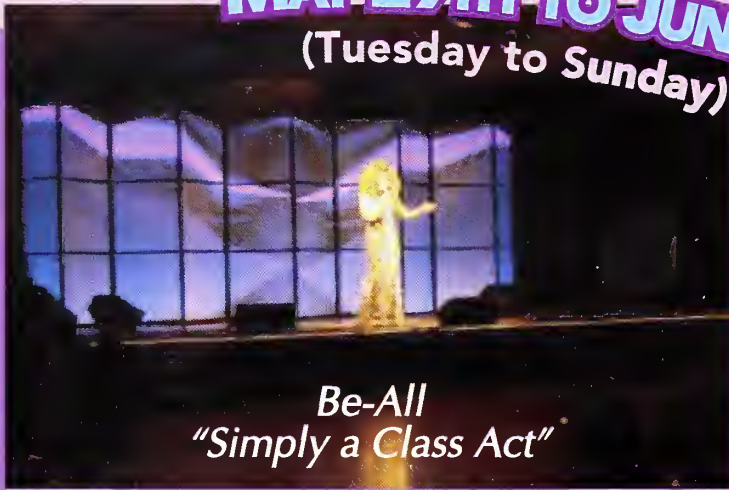
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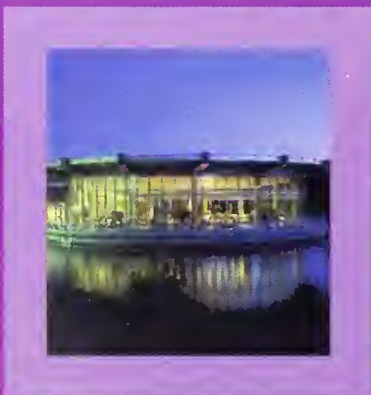
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Publisher
JoAnn Roberts

Editor
Angela Gardner

Art Director
Astra

Sales & Advertising
LadyLike Magazine
Creative Design Services
P.O. Box 491
Lionville, PA
19353-0491
Phone: 610-363-7117
LLmag@cdspub.com
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LadyLike

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*Kalina
Isato*

*Residence: Philadelphia, city of
transisterly love!*

Age: Not 40 yet.

Height: Just a tad under 5' 8"

Weight: 132

Dress Size: 6

Shoe Size: 9

*Perfume: The expensive stuff in
the corset bottle.*

*Makeup: No favorites; like best
of breed, not brand loyalty.*

*Favorite Pastime: Dance music
production.*

*Favorite Place: Monday nights
at the Tavern on Camac.*

Best Attributes: My smile!

Worst Attributes: My moodiness.

Profession: IT Director.

*Vices: Video games and the
latest, greatest gadget toy.*

*Dislikes: Snobby people who don't
deserve to be snobby.*

LL: Our Profile Girl is Miss Kalina Isato, also known as The Sexy Vampire, Gorgeous Girl and The Club Kid. She has been a presence on the TG scene for several years as a webmistress (www.transvamp.com), music producer, artist, and writer of how-to books for TGs. Where did all of this talent come into the world, Miss Kalina?

K: Brooklyn, New York.

LL: Well Brooklyn's loss is Philadelphia's gain. You've been based in Philly for sometime. How long has that been and why did you first move to the area?

K: I've lived here since August 1989. Penn Engineering accepted me into their Ph.D. in Computer Science program that year and the rest is history.

LL: It's a question we ask all of our Profile Girls and we're asking you right now, when did you first feel attracted to feminine things?

K: The first time I seriously got into feminine things was when I was fourteen years old. I experimented with my mother's makeup, secretly wore her clothes and undergarments, and pranced around my home like I owned the place. I wanted to be a girl through and through so I practiced being a girl, or my conception of a girl, whenever my parents were away, which was usually on weekends.

LL: It's great that you had weekend time to play enfemme. Many of us "little girls" didn't have that much time to experiment alone. Your mother's profession helped you, didn't it?

K: Immensely. She was a seamstress and brought home samples of all of her creations, so I had literally hundreds of outfits to try on.

LL: What was your very first experience with women's clothing? Did you try on clothes, play with jewelry or apply some makeup?

K: It was shoes! I was 4 years old when I tried on a pair of my

mother's high-heeled pumps.

LL: Tell us about the fateful pumps.

K: I remember they were white. And of course they came nowhere near fitting me. My parents caught me prancing around and thought it was funny. My father picked me up in his arms and I flailed my legs like Fay Wray in *King Kong*. I remember that image vividly. I've always been a ham like that.

LL: Did you ever get seriously caught in women's clothes, as in "Oh Migod! You're wearing a dress!" by anyone?

K: In my second year in college, my roommate in the dorm found my collection of girl clothes and told all of the people on my floor, including the resident assistant. Everything was kept hush, hush, but I never saw my favorite bra and panty set ever again. Of course, they confiscated my collection of *Penthouse* magazines, too.

LL: Oh the humanity! Your lingerie and your girlie mags—too cruel. How about your folks? Did they every come across their little boy being a little girl?

K: My parents never caught me wearing my mother's clothes, but they suspected it. They were utterly devastated when I produced pencil drawings of models with long flowing hair and clothes of my own design. Since they believed that artists don't make money until they die, I was coerced into being a pre-med major in my first year of college.

LL: Another case of the creative peg in the mundane hole. But, you did quite well in your college educated profession and have let



your creative side flourish as Kalina. Now, another biggie. When did you first go out in women's clothes?

K: Well, I'm really a late bloomer. I only started going out en femme when I was 24, but I can say without a doubt that I was better prepared for it than most tgirls who started going out in their teens.

LL: Why's that?

K: Because when I do something, I think about it, twist it around in my mind, and think of every single possibility for failure, and then eradicate the bad things before they ever come to surface. That's my Type-A obsessive-compulsive personality. To me, it's all about being the best that I can be and to never give up just because I've not succeeded.

LL: So you spent some time in "training" before you actually took Kalina out in public, ironing out those "bad things" before you made an appearance?

K: Exactly. There were still a lot of



K: It was the Halloween of 1992 and I went to the Aztec Club in Philly with a group of friends. I was dressed like a “Delaware Avenue club chick” and, in this predominantly straight club, only one person actually knew what I was dressed as! Ever since that night, working up to going out weekly, I became a club kid to my friends.

LL: Where did the Sexy Vampire identity come from?

K: I called myself Kalina the Sexy Vampire because of my love for the nightlife.

LL: Where, outside of Philadelphia, have you partied over the years?

K: I’ve hit all the major party spots. New York, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, D.C., and Baltimore.

LL: Out of them all what’s your favorite city?

K: Even though I’m from Brooklyn my favorite city is actually Philly. Where else can you get fine restaurants, awesome nightclubs, and other niceties of city life without the congestion and pompousness of New York?

LL: New York can be hard to navigate. But you and I have had some wild times there.



things I did wrong the first year or so but I learned from every experience. I never once convinced myself I was great like many overconfident t-girls. I “threw myself into the fire,” so to speak, by practicing my skills in straight dance clubs, such as the now defunct Aztec Club and Egypt, first on Halloween night, then monthly outings, and then weekly outings. I knew I had to go out as much as possible and mingle with as many people as possible to get comfortable with my femme persona.

LL: How much partying does that work out to?

K: I went out as many as four nights a week to all different kinds of parties, meeting all different kinds of people. I’m inherently a shy person, but, by going out like that I trained myself into being a sociable person.

LL: Tell us about your first night out in a nightclub?

K: Yes indeed.

LL: Now we know where the Sexy Vampire came from. Where did you get Kalina?

K: Kalina is my exotic reinterpretation of the name Colleen. Years after I made it up I discovered that Kalina was an actual name, which I thought was funny. I've had a couple of genetic girls named Kalina send me emails saying they've seen my web site and thought it was very cool.

LL: Who would you say have been the biggest influences on your femme persona?

K: Believe it or not, this would have to be my mother. She was an exceptionally beautiful Asian woman. I basically look very similar to her when she was my age, except she's about six inches shorter than me. During my childhood she always wore perfect makeup and perfect hair, and she loved wearing colorful clothes and high heels. Even to this day in her mid-sixties she still wears high heels so she can appear taller.

LL: Mom's can have a powerful influence on our sense of style. What about other role models for the young Isato?

K: My second biggest influence has got to be my algebra teacher in high school. She was so hot! She always wore Lycra Spandex® and looked like some kind of eighties rocker whore. Poison is one of my favorite scents because of her. My third biggest influence has got to be Lynda Carter's Wonder Woman. She's absolutely fantabulous! Anyone so top heavy who can run in high-heeled boots deserves a standing ovation.



LL: Here, here! What motivated you to start your website, transvamp.com?

K: My web site started as a sort of blog before the term blog was ever invented. It was basically a repository for all of the stories and articles I wrote for online and print magazines at the time. I added a picture section, which was enormously popular. Over the years, transvamp.com has grown into a fantastic resource for crossdressers and transsexuals with its advice columns, articles, adventure stories, inspirational pictures, and, of course, the business end of it, which includes the sale of all of the books I've written and the videos I've produced.

LL: We were just about to get into that. You've written seven books for TGs. What made you start writing?

K: I've always had an interest in writing, ever since I was in grade school. I could never stop writing about the circumstances and things around me. Like many tgirls, I hated my life and my situation and wished things were different, so to take my mind off of things I wrote about everything around me. I was given an accolade for best story in my high school english yearbook. All of my writing teachers were very encouraging, which has helped make me a better writer.

LL: You're not just Kalina Isato the Sexy Vampire. Not content with just one secret identity, you have





another one as music producer and star Gorgeous Girl. Tell us how that happened and how much success Gorgeous Girl has had in the music biz.

K: (A Kalina laugh.) Hee hee. Well, Sharon Osbourne says she hated my music on Season 1, Episode 4 of *The Osbournes*, so that's my claim to fame! Actually, that's not true. My song "Planet Rave" has been used on three other television shows on MTV in different contexts. Several of the songs on my *Wild Ride* album have been used as foreground or background music on several episodes, and two have charted here and overseas.

LL: That must be a thrill, hearing your music on television.

K: I've been producing music for so long that I no longer jump for joy when I hear that my music is played on a particular show. I've made music that I like and the fact that other people appreciate it is just icing on the cake.

LL: What's next for Kalina Isato, The Sexy Vampire, aka Gorgeous Girl?

K: I'm co-hosting a Monday night party in Philly

called "Monday Night Tgirls." We've held over twenty parties already.

LL: What kind of things happen at your parties?

K: My friend Christina Adams and I have created a safe, open, and accepting environment for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their friends and admirers. We have different themes each week and my cast and crew create a little show for guests.

LL: Sounds like fun.

K: Our New Year's theme party had me dancing in angel wings that were over five feet tall. The party is small right now, but it's always fun and the small crowd is actually conducive to one-on-one conversation. There's never a cover charge for my parties and you can dress however you like, but do check out tgparties.com for information on each week's theme.

LL: Many thanks to Kalina Isato for being our beautiful and talented Profile Girl.

K: Thanks so much for inviting me!

(All photos courtesy of Kalina Isato)



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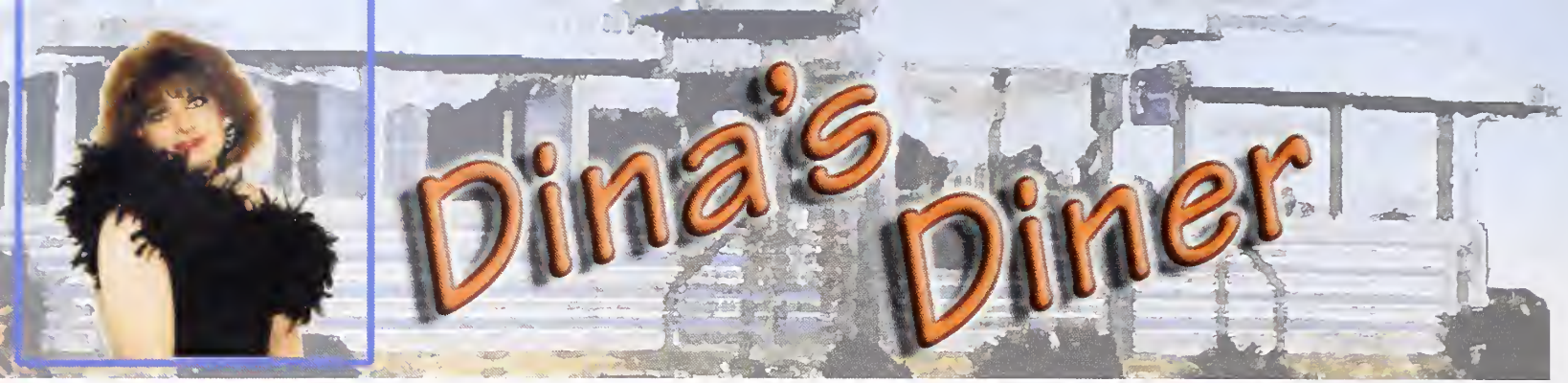
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I was surfing around the internet, following links from here to there, when I stumbled onto Pretty T-Girls, at one time a great place to see the best looking crossdressers on the World Wide Web, which was still kind of a new phenomenon in the mid 1990's. The site seems to have gone inactive in 2000 but sometimes you can get into it (other times not).

As I browsed through some of the profiles and photos there, I had a brief fit of nostalgia for those early years of dial-up connections and this new electronic universe of other crossdressers that made us all realize just how big this thing is. And where are some of those superstars of yesteryear – Gina Fox, Cathy Rogers, Stacy's Surrealism, Kitten Becky... and countless others who have seemed to vanish into thin air.

After the Internet became the main source for crossdressing contact, I would sometimes look back through the old contact magazines from the 80's and early 90's and wonder whatever happened to some of those girls—who are either eligible for social security now or rapidly getting there.

For as many young t-girls who seem to be coming into the community, crossdressing still seems to be a middle-aged phenomenon for the most part. Thankfully, we humans seem to be living longer and more active lives as the boomer generation hits the big 6-oh. So maybe we will all be here for awhile, in which case, sit back and please read on...

DIRECT FROM PAKIS-TRAN

Angela Gardner sent me an article about a transgender television star in—of all places—Pakistan. Ali Saleem is a 28 year old male performer who first became known in Pakistan as an impersonator of former female Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, but is now even more famous for a fictional creation.



Saleem is the star of a television talk show in which he dresses in full Pakistani female regalia as Begum Nawazish Ali, a glamorous and flirtatious interviewer of celebrities and politicians in that Muslim country. Transgenderism and sexuality are under pretty tight wraps in Pakistan but the larger than

life persona of Begum (meaning Lady) Nawazish seems to have transcended some taboos.

Saleem is openly bisexual as a male and apparently very openly flirtatious to male guests on his show when dressed as Nawazish. The photos of Nawazish show an exotic, elegant, woman in traditional decorated saris, careful coiffures and a lot of makeup. With female guests, Nawazish is dishy and competitive. It is all part of the act. And it has become a popular show with Pakistani viewers and the guests, who often include high ranking legislators and political figures. It seems that the transformation from the male Saleem to the female Nawazish is just enough of a playful shield to allow the hostess to get away with questions and behavior that would be unheard of for other performers in this conservative Muslim country currently ruled by the military.

Saleem says the performance has a political objective as well. He wants Pakistan to return to democracy after the rule of General Musharraf ends. Oddly, it is Musharraf's more liberal view of the media that has helped make the Begum Nawazish show possible. Saleem also wants to change the world's view of Pakistan as a repressive hotbed of terrorism. The metropolitan areas in Karachi and Lahore are much more liberal than the rural areas where the rule

of Islam is more powerful. And he has the comforting personal reasons for performing as a female.

"My biggest high is to see myself gorgeous in the mirror," he said recently while reclining in a makeup-room chair. As a beautician outlined his eyes, adding glitter and eye shadow, he said, "Maybe, yes, I am a diva."

SMEARING ON THE PAINT

A young man sits in his dressing area, carefully spreading a toned facial cream to his cheekbones before going out. One of the motivations for applying a liberal amount of the dark ointment is that it makes him feel good about the way he looks. Is it a Goth rocker, a drag queen or a football player? The *New York Times* carried an article on December 3 2006 that identified the makeup apply-er as a football player. In fact, many football players from the high school level to the pros use eye-black on their cheekbones as a way to cut sun glare and, yes, just to look cool on the field.

The *Times* reporter, Jere Longman, delved into the mysterious prevalence of those dark stripes of burnt cork, black grease, or commercially manufactured glare strips by football players. Exactly what is going on there—science or something else more personal?

Little did anyone know, but scientists have been studying this question for some time. Both Yale University and the University of New Hampshire sponsored separate studies to determine if eye-black on the cheekbones actually had any beneficial effect for the wearer. Surprisingly, it did! There was some measurable diminishment in reflected light for those who wore eye-black than for those that did not or wore something less effective.

"I thought we would find it to be like war paint and a psychological advantage more than anything else," Dr. Brian M. DeBroff, the lead author of the Yale study, said in a telephone interview. "We were surprised to find a benefit from the grease."

The scientists could not determine if the diminishment of glare translates into measurably better performance on the field. That hardly seems to matter to the players who use the eye-black. "I think it kind of lost its purpose," said Nick Ciccone, a safety at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania. "It's a fashion thing now. A lot of guys say, if you look good, you feel good, and if you feel good, you play good."

Listen to this description of two players applying their eye-black: "Jerricho Cotchery described a scene in the Jets' locker room before a game last Sunday, when he and his fellow receiver Laveranues Coles applied eye black as if they were showgirls applying false eyelashes." Hmmm. The *Times* article also pointed to a couple of other players who use eye-black in games:



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"Rory Jones, a receiver at South Plaquemines High in Port Sulphur, La., said he had no idea what the eye-black was intended for. 'I use them for showboating,' he said. Tim Heagy, a defensive end at Lycoming College in Pennsylvania, said he thought the smeared-cheek look might give him a slight edge over a larger opponent. 'If he's a little bigger, maybe he thinks you're crazy because you have eye-black on.'"

If so, it wouldn't be the first time a man was suspected of being crazy because he was wearing makeup.

WHATS UP DOC? BESIDES YOUR HEMLINE. I MEAN

The *New York Times* had an interesting article about inappropriate clothing choices by... medical doctors. The article appeared on November 21, 2006 and was written by Erin Marcus, herself an M.D.

One area of inappropriate doctor attire is dressing too sexy for the hospital or office when dealing with patients and other medical staff. The article included anecdotes about attractive female physicians who wore inappropriately sexy low cut dresses or too-short hemlines. Doctor Marcus wrote, "Every day, it seems, I see a bit of midriff here, a plunging neckline there. Open toed sandals, displaying brightly manicured toes,

seem ubiquitous."

Dr. Pamela Rowland, a behavioral scientist, has studied the effect of physician clothing on patient confidence and reports that poor apparel or grooming choices by medical doctors is prevalent around the country. In an increasingly informal culture, some young doctors have adopted a casual approach to grooming and clothing that can affect how they are perceived by their patients.

This reminded me of a story I saw several years ago about Dr. Elizabeth Vaughan, who is known for dressing in sexy clothing while treating patients. The Doctor is still in practice and has a website where you can see some of her attractive, sexy, middle-aged goods on display. A chemistry graduate of Duke University before going to the University of Virginia's medical school, here is how Duke's alumni magazine profiled her in 2004: "She bucks medical convention in



other ways, as well. At the office, she sports tight shirts, miniskirts, and stiletto heels. Four years ago, when she was practicing in tiny Martinsville, Virginia, her attire and hourglass figure prompted *USA Today* to dub her the Erin Brockovich of rural medicine—a reference to the provocatively dressed California paralegal who was portrayed in a movie by Julia Roberts. A wave of publicity followed for Vaughan, who suddenly found herself on *Today* and *Dateline NBC*. "She's not your father's doctor," one article said. "Your momma wouldn't have allowed it."

Vaughan bristles at the notion that her unorthodox style of dress is a marketing gimmick or, as some critics have suggested, a plea for attention. In fact, she views herself as a feminist. "The ultimate goal of feminism is for women to be able to be themselves," says Vaughan, who was involved in Duke's Women's Studies program during its early years. "As long as we try to be artificial men and act like men, then we are discounting our own feminine traits and strengths. I don't dress this way for anybody else's pleasure. I do it because I enjoy it."

HEY LADY. YOU DROPPED YOUR. Uh...
YOUR PENIS

There is exciting news from the international entertainment community, datelined South Korea.

The country's (and maybe the world's!) first postoperative transsexual pop singing group is working on its first release. The name of the singing group is Lady (cute, huh?) and consists of Sahara, Sine, Binu and Yoona, aged 22 to 29. One of the group is a former ladyboy beauty pageant winner in Thailand.



The producer of their upcoming Euro-dance pop CD (that's just what the world needs, more pop music) put the group together after a solo postoperative transsexual named Harisu hit the charts with a huge hit titled "Foxy Lady". If you never thought of Korea as a hotbed of transgenderism, think again. The auditions to choose the members of Lady attracted over 400 transgendered hopefuls.

An interviewer asked the group, "Many people are speculating that you are trying to cash in on the novelty of being transgendered, but many are skeptical about if you have any talent, what do you say to that?" One of the girls replied, "Soon we'll show everyone what we've got on stage."

THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME

What scholastic sporting activity causes more injuries than competitive football? If you said cheerleading, move to the head of the class. (If you said cheerleading while dressed like a cheerleader... drop me a line.)

I saw an article from an unknown source that used some pretty amazing statistics about the rate of injury to high school and college cheerleaders. I can't tell if the stats are legitimate but the article was written in a professional manner and a web search will turn up plenty of articles about cheerleader injuries.

"A decade ago, the Consumer Product Safety Commission reported some 15,700 cheerleader emergency-room visits; today, the figure stands at 28,400, a 180% leap. And we're not just talking ankle sprains. The Physician and Sports Medicine Journal found that cheerleading injuries are the most catastrophic of any school activity, sidelining victims for an average of 29 days at a time."



The reason for the sideline carnage is that cheerleading has become reliant on dangerous stunts like building huge pyramids of bodies and tossing girls high in the air. The article has this interesting way of making its point: "And if you're still not completely convinced that modern cheerleading is a death-sport, why don't you page through the annual report of the *National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research*, where the lumps of broken cheerleading flesh pile up at a numbing rate. 'Fell from a pyramid... partially paralyzed.... A female cheerleader suffered a fractured collarbone, a damaged ear drum, and a basal skull fracture.... A high school cheerleader was kicked in the face by a teammate who was falling from the top of a pyramid... Fractured and dislocated several cervical vertebrae diving over a mini-trampoline (she has now made progress and is able to feed herself)...'"

The unknown author cynically states that only a high school girl shooting heroin in the cafeteria is leading a more dangerous school career than a modern cheerleader.

Of course the image of the cheerleader is right up there with the French Maid and the Dominatrix in the pantheon of female archetypes for crossdressers. If the current trend of injuries to cheerleaders keeps up we may begin to see crossdressers in cheerleading uniforms sporting new accessories to authenticate their look—neck braces, leg casts and crutches.



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Reality Check

Angela Gardner

Hello my little tulips! Are we all relaxed and composed? Have you artfully arranged the lace of your negligee as you repose on that pastel love seat? Do you have a glass of wine or delicate china cup of delightful tea at hand? I do hope so as now is the time we share the joy of LadyLike magazine! We enjoy putting it together, and you enjoy reading it, and looking at the pictures, of course. Just one of the small pleasures of life that we're happy to provide.

One of the dismal parts about life on this planet, (and one that I only bring up because you're feeling so good right now that it won't bum you out too much) is having to live with prejudice. Wherever there is difference among people, and when there's some insecurity present, you will find prejudice. Difference can be threatening! Perhaps our very nature makes us inclined to develop "us" and "them" attitudes. We all suffer from it to some degree and we all need to be careful that we don't make judgments about people based on those naughty old subconscious prejudices.

Of course the type of prejudice that's most apparent to us as TG people is trans prejudice. As that knowing alien Alf said (on the television show of the same name), "Oh sure, blame the guy in a dress." (At least I think that's what he said. It's been a long time, girls, and the old gray matter is getting creaky.)

Those of us who don't manage to look completely feminine, or sound it, at all times can attract attention while we pursue our crossdressed recreation and since we are crossing that gender border to boldly go where men are supposed to dread we can attract attention. The important thing to remember is, attention is not always bad. Just because

you're getting looked at does not mean that they want to harm you. It doesn't necessarily mean they want to take you out to dinner at a four star restaurant, either. Attracting someone's attention may just mean that they find you to be an attractive woman. Hooray! Or it could mean that you are under suspicion of not being what you're presenting yourself as, that you may be attempting to fool someone.

People don't like being fooled so they may get defensive about your presence and think you're "up to something." What do you do? You act as normal and as much like you have every right to be there as the next middle aged man in a dress. (Or any age man in a dress.) Unless they are really messed up they will stop looking at you after a bit and you will retreat into their background as they focus on what they're doing. Remember, you're the center of your life, not there's. Only the most prejudiced people will keep being bothered by your presence.

Of course there are a variety of social situations and the way people react to you will be different in each one. A singles bar is very different from a family restaurant or shopping mall. Who you are with is also a factor. If you're part of a group of ladies and you are the only trans lady in the bunch then you're less likely to be singled out. If you're out with a date, a gentleman who may either be your boyfriend or just a friend who escorts you for outings enfemme, then you'll get less attention as you will be looked at as a part of a couple rather than a single woman on her own.

My fella and I (yes girls, we're still an item) were out in a "family" style restaurant last week. It happened to be a light crowd that evening so most of the families were up to something else

and we had the place pretty much to ourselves. I'm a tall woman with blonde highlights so it's not unknown for me to attract attention. After the waitress had initially greeted us and gotten our beverage orders I noticed that she began to refer to us as "you two". Since we're not an Irish rock band and my boyfriend's name isn't Bono I began to suspect that she had noticed something. As we ate I also spotted the bus girl, who was cleaning up the booth next to ours, taking surreptitious glances my way as she wiped the table. Damn it! The waitress blabbed!

As we left, after an okay meal for that type of establishment, we discussed the way the waitress had referred to us. The conclusion we arrived at was; yes, she did notice that I was not a natural woman and the "you two" may have been her attempt to avoid calling us "guys", which is a common form of address these days. A group of girls will be referred to that way as easily as a group of boys.

Will we ever know for sure if that's what she was doing? Only if we go in disguised as Gender Patrol officers and question the staff; "Have you seen anyone in here lately who was dressed as the opposite gender? Any tall blondes with highlights dine here in the past week?"

The bottom line? It really doesn't matter. Whatever the waitress thought, she treated us just like the other patrons and we left her a good tip. We got out for a meal and she had something to talk about if she wanted to.

The extra bonus is that once again I have done my part to present TGs as just plain folks who act as normal as anyone else. (And like the chocolate chip cookies for dessert.) Attracting attention for being tall, well dressed and attractive is just fine. Attracting attention for acting weird is not good. So, don't be weird, be natural, do your best to be LadyLike and have some fun.

Speaking of fun, I do hope you're prepared to dive into the rest of this issue. Let the fun begin!

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Night Moves

Trax—Kent, Washington
by Barbara Anne Love, a
Seattle-area TG

Down in South King county, where hardly anyone knows, is an LGBT club where everyone goes. Trax, named for its close proximity on 1st Street, to the Burlington Northern railroad, is located 15 miles South of Seattle, just East of State Route 167, in downtown Kent. It is very well-known for the Retro Diva Review. This is serious TG show-biz with a professional stage and excellent sound and lighting systems. The place comes alive and is SRO on both Friday and Saturday nights with shows at eight and ten. Misty Stevens, the reigning starlet and MC does an excellent job both in engaging the audience and performing in her many slinky, floor-length gowns. If her mother could see her now!

All Trax first-timers and birthday celebrants are asked to join Misty on stage to share their name and residence, and engage in some most intimate chit-chat. For their special courage, each of the newbies is given the house concoction for the occasion, a unique alcoholic beverage named "Pussy".

The show, which usually features six very beautiful, and well-attired young "ladies" is high energy, non-stop action. The ladies come in all sizes and shapes, each with a unique talent and stage presence.

To float everyone's boat, Jackson Pride, a very talented, FtM mini-fireball, really appeals to the



other side of the crowd. The early show is great, but the girls really strut their stuff after ten. Staying to watch both shows is highly recommended! The audience is usually about 70 percent women, and bachelorette or girls-night-out parties are common.

The food is very good by Seattle standards and by the second show everyone has worked up an appetite for carbs and... other things. It is highly recommended that reservations be made for the Retro Diva Review as it is a popular local item.

If you find yourself in the Seattle-area, all dressed up with no place to go, then put on your casual heels, no stilettos, and make tracks to Trax. One word of caution, usual female attire in the Seattle Area tends to follow the grunge-look and is very casual. That clingy little black dress would most likely not work here!

Trax

226 1st Avenue

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http://www.myspace.com/trax_bar_n_grill

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PE-GNOA Party at Lydia's

By Chloe Prince

If you're Transgendered and from Ohio you'll be happy to know that there are now three major Girls Night Out parties going on that have TGirls around the state and beyond booking up hotels, donning Pink Party dresses and putting on the glam! In this month's Night Moves, I would like to share one of them with you—the "PE-GNOA Party" (PinkEssence Girls Night Out Akron)! It's one of Akron's best kept secrets... until now.

The Ohio Chapter of PinkEssence.com (a national TG social network), hosts the PE-GNOA Party (among other things) on the second Saturday of each month starting at 9 p.m. at Lydia's Bar, an unsuspecting "choose your label" GLBT bar. Lydia's is helping the PE-GNOA Party to up the ante and is lighting the NE Ohio TG scene on fire! This refreshing new group is breaking all the rules (another article all together) did I mention the group eats together



The party crowd at the Pink Essence party at Lydia's.

at mainstream restaurants two hours prior before their big night, *and* eats a breakfast afterwards at another restaurant at 3 a.m. before going home or back to the hotels!?

Lydia's is nestled in the well-lit Arlington Road Shopping Plaza and offers generous parking only thirty feet from the front door. The owner, Carol, and bartender Chuck

ensure safety at the door by buzzing each person in. That's a nice security measure that welcomes discreetness



*(L.- R.)
Ranae,
Marsha,
Chloe,
Glenda, and
Michelle at
Lydia's.*

to the mixed crowd of swingers, lesbians, straights, gays, bi's, TGirls and their supporters.

On January 13, 2007 a PE-GNOA Party of sixty eight TGirls with hostess Chloe Prince (hey, that's me!) was entertained by the live rock band MidLife Crisis. You didn't find the stereotypical "thud thud thud thud" of sub-woofer bass there (move over "Sexy Back") only classic rock that you know and love to sing to was pinned to your brain by the well oiled machine, Midlife Crisis!

Lydia's focuses on people, not aesthetics. If you're looking for race cars and retro garb to be hanging from the ceiling there is a TGI Friday's down the road. The bar has one pool table, darts, video card games, and a small dance area. The bathrooms are clean and well stocked, unlike some clubs you go into where the floor is as sticky as a taxi cab floor and the air is about as fresh as a Foghat concert (been there, done that and threw out the t-shirt long ago)!

Now, I have saved the best for last! The regular bar hostess is also a beautiful TGirl by the name of Farrah Fawn (former co-owner with Denise Russell of the TGirl shop Gorgeous) who hosts and entertains the crowd on most nights, but Friday is a special night—it's TGIF! Thank God its FARRAH! TGIF is when Farrah performs her show and will entertain you for hours (bring friends, Farrah is a real treat to watch)!

The bar is constantly having new entertainment and there are some regulars too—like Denise Russell, a traveling TGirl and veteran performer who sings in her own voice and tells it like it is.

Out of town ladies, you can use the bar's limo service which is contracted to pick you at the Red Roof Hotel just four miles down the road from Lydia's. The driver will take you to and from the bar—round trip for only fifteen dollars and, the limo service is also discrete! "What happens in the limo stays in the limo!"

The PE-GNOA Party at Lydia's on the second Saturday of each month serves as a nexus conduit for TGirl groups around Ohio and surrounding states which is revitalizing and spawning a much needed emergence in TGirl activity and presence.

PinkEssence is a classy organization of femininity for those born, presenting or transitioning in the female gender role, helping bring together the TG community to meet and coordinate educational and fun activities IN THE REAL WORLD—in addition to (but not always) the club/bar scenes.

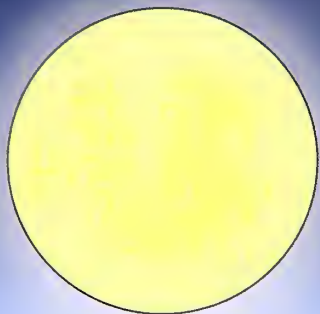
Lydia's Bar

1400 S. Arlington St.

Akron, Ohio

330.773.3001

Website Access via <http://www.PinkEssence.com>



Night Moves

The Town House Bar and Piano Lounge.

By Leigh Smythe, a Twin Cities TG

About halfway between the State Capital and the University of Minnesota, on University Avenue, in St. Paul, Minnesota, is one of the state's most well known



LadyLike reporter Leigh Smythe with two ladies from the show.



Lily White, the drag show MC, and Leigh Smythe.

GLBT bars attended by all members and friends of the GLBT community, and a stepping stone to many other clubs in the Twin Cities. The Town House Bar has been a landmark in the Twin Cities for over 30 years. It is, actually two places in one.

In the front half of the building is a very intimate dance floor surrounded on three sides by tables right up to the edge. Drag shows on Thursday and Sunday

are as professional as anywhere in the country and the pool tables are in constant use. Karaoke happens on Wednesdays and the very friendly staff makes this a warm and intimate place. On a recent Thursday I talked with Lilly White, the MC of the drag show, and a couple of the performers. The show, very high energy and exciting, played well to an audience who knew what to expect and joined in the songs with whoops and loud applause.

The back half of the building hosts Blanche's Piano lounge which books special acts. The ambiance is calmer and appealing to those who want to chat and enjoy a gentler evening. An act called The Girls plays on Thursdays, Open Mic is on Fridays, and Lori and Judy appear on Saturdays.

On a recent Saturday I met with up with Michelle, the President of CLCC (City of Lakes Crossgender Community) after their meeting. Many people use The Town House as their meeting place before moving on to another local, or Minneapolis club. For those in out-state areas, it is common to meet here to renew friendships. Your reporter meets with friends here often and enjoys the atmosphere and the friendships in this full service establishment. If you're in town, or live here, this bar is a must see. You won't be disappointed! If you're traveling, come sample the ambiance.

The Town House

1415 University Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55104

Phone: 651-646-7087

<http://www.townhousebar.com/>



Town House performer Felicity poses with Leigh.

Letters

She Steps Up And Does Her Duty
Dear JoAnn,

After reading your last issue's editorial I feel compelled to act. I have been a faithful reader and lurker since volume eleven and I have stood by and done nothing, I have read every word, concentrated on every picture, even considered using your advertisers for reduction of my belly bump. But have I contributed to your faithful publication? To this question I must answer an emphatic but apologetic, "no."

But your stirring words on the last page stating the need for more pictures gave me incentive. It was a call to "bare" arms, legs and an occasional well-turned ankle in this war of transsexual communication!

And so this letter comes bearing gifts; a photo extravaganza of all three of us—me, myself and I (taken by another delightful Joanne in Chicago). I know they are probably not up to the standards of your fine magazine but I can stand idly by no longer.

LadyLike is the best publication of its kind on this side of the Azores and its message must keep coming through. We must do what must be done and get our undies out of a bundle so that the word keeps going out.

I realize that my contribution will not create "shock and awe" in the minds, eyes and hearts of your readers. However, it may inspire others in this literary war of attrition with a sense of "Espirit De Corpulence" to join me in this holy crusade. Not all of us are bootyful but we're all we've got and have to stick together or surely we will stick alone. (Which I think is relatively impossible when you consider the physics of it.)

Now I know that the "foliage" in the white house has made it difficult for all of us to exist financially. But yesterday's elections indicated that even though he is not uprooted he has been symbolically defoliated. Things will rise again, okay not for me because of the



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surgery, but there is still a chance for the rest of you! So lets dust off those Kodak Instamatics and get pictorially moving!

Mon Captainette JoAnn—I am coming in your hour of need! (oh you dirty old ladies stop reading into that last phrase!)

Adieu,

Erica Doran, Wisconsin

Thanks for the photos and for the wonderful image of the "Foliage" being sprayed with herbicide. Agent Orange perhaps?

"Weight Loss=Dress". Update

Hi Angela,

I just received Issue #68 of *LadyLike* and it was surreal to see my letter in print. Thank you. The "weight-for-dress" saga is still ongoing, I am eight pounds away. If someone missed the last issue, if I lose thirty pounds my wife is going to buy me a dress.

When I read the profile on Joanna it was an inspiration. Reading the first page—six foot and 1X and she is beautiful! I began to think maybe it's me using my size as an excuse not to experience more. So many of the earlier profiles are six foot and 170—don't get me wrong, they are fabulous (Lowla!). But you don't have to be thin to enjoy and express your femme side with confidence.

The "weight-for-dress" saga took a turn for the worse the other day. My wife had gone shopping to a couple of consignment stores and she came home with a few purchases. She went into the bedroom then called me to come in. When I entered there was a red day dress with a light black print on it laying on the bed. She said she found it for a dollar and wanted to use it as a gauge for my dress size. I just looked at her and she stated, "Try it on." It was all I could do not to rip my shirt off. It was a size eighteen and I slowly slipped it on and she zipped the back. It fit pretty good and she said, "OK, take it off, I got what I needed." I took one last look in the mirror and slipped it off and hung it in the closet. A couple of days later, while we were watching TV, I asked if I could put on the dress to watch the next show. She looked up and said, "Sure." I told her it would take a minute because I wanted to shower and off I went. I went to "the drawer" and got out a bra, slip, panties, nylons, three inch black pumps, brown wig, black choker necklace and earrings, and the two "girls", all of which she knows I have. I showered and shaved extra close and put on all the above, and applied just a little make-up. Then I slipped on the dress—what a wonderful feeling. I walked out into the living room and said, "Do you like it?" She looked up and gasped, then quickly looked away. I sat down and she looked

over, then leaned back and closed her eyes. I tried to talk to her but she refused to look at me. After about ten minutes she got up and left the room and said, "This is too strange." I waited a couple of minutes and then followed. I found her in bed. I sat down and said, "You said it was okay to put it on." Again without looking she said, "Not with everything else. It's weird." I went to the restroom, de-femmed and joined her without another word being spoken. I didn't sleep well that night. I believed the joy of sharing was over.

The next day we went shopping at another consignment shop, neither one of us brought up the night before. While we at the shop she found a number of items and then she picked up a bag of clipped on earrings. She looked at me and said, "You think you would like these?" I said, "Sure, but what about last night?" She said that was definitely an overload of dressing for her to process and let's take it slower. We bought the earrings.

We also purchased a digital camera, so maybe if I can lose the last eight pounds "the dress" picture will be coming.

Angela, thank you again for a wonderful magazine and I would like to here from anyone who can help me though this time or just to chat.

Always with Hugs,

Carolyn Kay

Michigan SpecialKmi2@AOL.com

PS: Just a quick postscript to yesterday's letter: Today I noticed the red print day dress was not in the closet. When I asked my wife where it was she said, "How much do you weigh?" smiled and walked away. There goes any possibility of an early picture.

Those last eight (ten, five, whatever) pounds can be brutal. But you have really great incentive to stick with it. You can do it!

She Wishes We Were Bi

JoAnn,

I was so pleased to see that you used my photo in issue 67 of *LadyLike*. It is such a rewarding feeling to grace the pages of such a wonderful magazine dedicated to helping all of us girls.

I always look forward to receiving the next issue of *LadyLike*, I wish that it was published monthly instead of quarterly, but that would be asking a lot out of you ladies who do all of the work. When I receive the new issue of *LadyLike* I have to read it from cover to cover reviewing all of the wonderful articles, reading the letters and admiring the pictures of all the pretty ladies.

I really enjoyed Amanda Richards article on how we can improve on our photo composition, it was informative and should be helpful to anyone taking their own photos. I hope to use a few of her ideas the next time I shoot photos of myself.



In reading your "On My Mind" column about the demise of the different publications over the years, it troubles me to think of where we ladies would be without a publication like *LadyLike* to provide inspiration, support and information. At this time I do not own a lot of different outfits necessary to create the variety of pictures that you may desire, but I am going to try to send you at least one photo for each upcoming issue. I challenge all of the other ladies to send in a picture of themselves to help assist you in building a better collection of our photos. Just think of the

pictures you would have available if each subscriber sent in one photo for each issue. If there is anything we ladies can do to assist you, please let us know.

I also have become a subscriber to TGForum, it would be nice if there was a way to create a combination subscription for both *LadyLike* and TGForum, and it would make it so much easier.

I am enclosing a photo of myself, I hope that it is good enough for you to use. I just love you all for the job you and the other ladies are doing for all of us ladies who enjoy the magazine.

Lucinda Grace

Customer # 4182

lucinda@tgforum.com

Funny you should mention. We'd like to say that it was because of your suggestion, Lucinda, but *LadyLike* and TGForum have combined entirely due to other circumstances. If you read JoAnn's "On My Mind" in this issue, you will learn *LadyLike* has taken over TGForum and when you subscribe to one you get the other included. You can take a look at TGForum if you're not familiar with it by going to our *LadyLike* website: <http://www.lmag.com> and clicking the TGForum link or go directly to www.tgforum.com.

And, remember, dear readers, when it comes to your photo submissions it's not the number of different outfits you have but how you pose, where you pose, and how you share your lovely smile that counts.

Tangled Up In Philly

Dear *LadyLike*,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for making it possible for me to become the woman I am. I



had a great time in Rehoboth Beach! *Beauty And The Beach* was everything it promised it would be; accommodations were excellent, hotel staff most kind and attentive, and the food—fantastic; I've never eaten so much in so short a time, and such a variety of goodies. I actually worried about keeping my girlish figure—silly me. During my altogether too brief stay I met a number of interesting people who provided insights and useful information about ourselves—we are indeed a mixed lot, all ages and backgrounds.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end. I dreaded the long trip home—upstate New York and over four hundred miles distant. Given my depressed mood it turned into something of a nightmare as I got hopelessly lost in the confusing tangle of roads in the Greater Philadelphia area. And the traffic—horrific, and everyone whizzing along at 75 mph; where are they all off to in such a hurry? I was reminded of a disturbed anthill. I wasn't used to it. I'm just a simple country girl living in the boonies. What's traffic? Anyway, a small price to pay for having had a great time and, if I'm still around next year—I'm that old broad—you'll see me again at BATB.

Sincerely,

Liz Hulbeck

P.S. Pictures included were all taken at *Beauty And The Beach*.

Letters

That's amazing, Liz! That's exactly how I got my job at *LadyLike*. I got lost in Philadelphia and JoAnn found me, bought me a dress and made me the editor. But seriously, next time you're lost in Philly if it happens to be the third Saturday of the month I will be hosting my TG party, Angela's Laptop Lounge, in suburban Philadelphia, right off of Route 202 near King of Prussia. Since JoAnn moved the magazine address to Lionville that might give me a better claim to the title, Queen of Prussia. And all that traffic whizzing around—they're on the way to my party! (www.tgatt2.tv)

Abracadabra! And Presto...

Dear JoAnn & Angela,

Enclosed is my check to renew my subscription for another year. I really love everything about the magazine. Keep up the great work!

I am sixty one years old and have been a part time female forever! I can remember when I was about four years old going to a fireworks display and seeing a magician perform before the fireworks. He took a man from the audience and put him in a big box, did some hocus pocus and out came a beautiful lady in a gorgeous bronze formal dress. I asked my mother to take me down there and have him turn me into a lady. Naturally she said NO! I cried! I wanted to be a beautiful woman.

By early high school, thanks to an aunt and later a girlfriend, I started transforming completely and going out shopping. This continued while I was in college and even while I was in the Air Force, thanks to a couple of other girlfriends.

I have been married for thirty five years. My wife found out about sixteen years ago. She accepts it by ignoring it. She goes out of town several times a month and I am able to go out shopping. I have been going out in public and passing as a woman for almost fifty years! I am able to use ladies fitting rooms and rest rooms with no problem and love just being "another woman."

I am enclosing a few pictures and would enjoy being included in your

letters and "Mirror-Mirror" areas. I would love to hear from other ladies like me.

Thanks!

Randi June

PO Box 355

Howe, IN 46746

4810

Can You See The Real Me? Can ya?

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

Thank you so much for printing my photo and letter in LL#65. I feel very honored and it was such a thrill to finally appear in your fabulous magazine and to be with so many beautiful girls, I really feel now like I belong.

I had a wonderful response from many other girls and some guys, too. I have so many new pen pals and some of us have talked on the phone. I just adore girl talk. I have been a very busy girl trying to keep up with all the letters and apologize to those who are still waiting. You all have touched me with your compliments and words of encouragement, which I treasure.

I was very impressed with your Profile on Kelli Su in issue #66. I can relate to this beautiful lady because I too have been to the Glamour Boutique in Auburn, Massachusetts. The staff is very friendly and knowledgeable and make a girl feel very comfortable. They suggested that I contact their makeup artist and go for a transformation session and photo shoot. They showed me a photo album of some of his work and I was impressed and amazed. Days later I made a call and set up an appointment.

Like Kelli Su I was skeptical of what could be done with me but by the time he was through and it was time to pose, I didn't recognize myself and was mesmerized by the woman I saw in the mirror. I think he enjoyed watching as I admired Stephanie. The photo session taught me that being a model, posing and smiling is not easy, and I have nothing but respect and admiration for women who put themselves through that.



I was told before he even began that once I saw myself I would never be the same. He was right because since then feminine feelings, emotions and behavior have become very prominent. I know now that Stephanie is the real me, and though I was not aware before, I believe now she is who I was meant to be.

Since my first transformation session my dressing increased in frequency and duration and I now wear panties and pantyhose, or garters and stockings, and sometimes even a camisole under what I now see as dreaded male clothes. I become quite moody when I have to wear them. I have been back for other sessions and loved them all.

I now hope to continue furthering my femininity in every aspect possible and look forward to making new friends and acquaintances, hopefully some in my area.

And, no, the she-male that "recruited" me as you joked in reply to my first letter did not get a toaster, but she did get a very loving and loyal friend who knows femininity will always be with me and I believe is my ultimate destiny.

Thank you for your compliments and being there for us girls and hopefully the girls who will one day discover themselves

Love,

Stephanie Pierson

PO Box 277

Willington, CT 06279-0277

Well, a good friend is a lot better than a toaster, anyway.

She's Partied With Angela!

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

Enclosed is my renewal to your (and our) great zine. I'm looking forward to another year of beautiful ladies and informative features. *LadyLike*, YOU RULE!

I had the pleasure to meet Angela and other nice people at Shangri La a few Saturdays ago. I want to meet each and everyone one of them again. I was particularly fascinated with the significant others that were there. I spoke to three. They warmed my heart, believing in their man for all the right reasons, and not letting the so called, "social norms" crush their love for their man. There is hope.

Here are some pictures from that night taken at my home. Also a few for your pinup pages, Mirror-Mirror.



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Letters

Hope you can use them.
Sincerely,
Jennifer Joy O'Neil
PMB 388
8001 Caster Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19152-2701

Her Name Etched in Plastic

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

In response to your request in LL#67 for more photos, I am enclosing a CD from my latest visit to TG North. Clare and I would appreciate any comments or critiques.

Once again you continue to publish a class act of a magazine for me as a crossdresser. I look forward to every issue. One of these days I plan to head to Philly and get a makeover from Amanda Richards. I would also like an opportunity to meet both of you in person.

Perhaps you might use one of my pictures with this note in Letters as well as others in Mirror-Mirror.

Sincerely,

Roberta

#3637

Well Roberta, we were thrilled when your digital photo CD arrived. We said, "Hooray! CDs are sending us CDs!" But the thrill faded when we put the disk into our CD drive and the computer was brought to it's knees. Not only could we not view your pictures, every professional photo application at our disposal gave up and locked up. One of the applications finally (after restarting the computer to escape a locked up app) said, "File may be corrupted."

For readers who are considering sending us photo CDs, don't stop! This is the first photo CD we've gotten that did this. And oddly enough, in an ironic twist of fate, just this past weekend JoAnn and I were discussing the vulnerability of CDs and DVDs. Jo told me that the upper side of a CD, the side with the label, is actually the more sensitive side. If it is damaged it can cause problems with the laser's ability to read the information encoded on the disk. A scratch or two on the underside may often have less effect than damage to the top.

After a close look at Roberta's disk we've concluded the problem is that she took advantage of the disk maker's inclusion of a "Title" spot on the upper side of the disk and used a ball point pen and really etched her name into the disk, rendering it unreadable. You should never write on a CD, let alone scratch into it. Even a Sharpie can cause the disk to become useless over time. The ink can get through the top layer and disrupt the laser. Even a stick on label may cause problems.

So, keep the CDs coming but put them into plastic cases or those paper or cardboard sleeves and write your name on those but don't scratch anything into the surface. In the meantime, we'll put a photo or two of Roberta in Mirror-Mirror from our backlog of Roberta snapshots while we wait for her replacement CD—in a paper sleeve.

She's Feeling Left Out

Dear Ms. Roberts,

My wife, Sandy, surprised me by putting in this subscription for me earlier in the year. She knew I wanted some sisters to correspond with so I mailed in four pix. Maybe my photos were not LadyLike enough to meet



your standards, or maybe they were disapproved because my customer number did not match up as Sandy Zoll. Sigh! But, we are married and live together and I do not have a bank account so the check was in her name. I hope you understand and will consider these two pix for your next issue.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and keep up the excellent work. Have a happy!

Sincerely,

Valarie Collins

26 Columbus Ave.

Farmingville, NY 11738

No dear, we didn't do a check on your identity, or anything like that, and kick your pictures out. If the picture is pretty and you can be seen then it will get into LL. Just like your picture did in issue 68! You were a victim of quarterly magazine lag time. And, now that we have an online outlet, some photos will pop up there well before the printed magazine hits the street. So keep those photos coming but be patient if you're waiting to see them in the hard copy version of LadyLike.

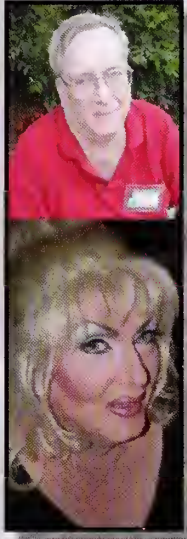
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(Through the *Science* of Aesthetics and the *Art* of Make up)

by Stephanie

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Amber-Jayne
(Roxanne Van Ness)
#2124, Canada



Stephaine McCall
1785 N Willow Woods Dr., Unit B,
Anaheim, CA 92807



Mirror
Mirror

Jennifer Joy O'Neil
PMB 388, 8001 Cedar Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19152-2701



Mirror Mirror



Stephaine McCall
1785 N. Willow Woods Dr., Unit B.
Anaheim, CA 92807



Elizabeth A. Hulbeck,
PO Box 1731,
Auburn, NY



Roberta, #3637



Kyra Kelly



Candy



For My Mirror

Barbara
#4437
Southampton, UK



Randi June,
PO Box 355
Howe, IN 46746



Barbara Roberts
PO Box 6372
Baltimore, MD 21230

How To Submit Photos

We now accept **digital photos** if they are of sufficient resolution. **Do not** overly compress digital photos. **Do not** send digital photos by email without permission **first**. We **cannot** use inkjet prints. If you send wet-film photos, we need glossy photographs. Please do not send more than four (4) photos. If you include your mailing name and mailing address on the back of your photos, we will print your address with your photo in the magazine so people can write to you directly. **Do not** write on the photos with a ballpoint pen. **Use a permanent marker** and make sure **the ink is dry** before putting them in the envelope. **If you are a subscriber**, we'll forward mail for you for the length of your subscription. Write your **customer number** on your photos. **If you are not a subscriber**, include \$10 with your photo and we will forward mail to you for a year.

How To Reply To Photos

If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or look for a forwarding number (like FWD9999) with the photo. If there is a FWD number, write your letter, put it in an envelope and **in pencil** write the FWD number on the front. For **each** letter to be forwarded, put your letter (in its envelope), correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at *LadyLike Magazine*, c/o PO Box 491, Lionville, PA 19353-0491.

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LadyLike is the publication that treats the subjects of transvestism and crossdressing as they should be treated, with respect and sophistication. Chock full of great features and loads of photos, you won't want to miss a single issue. Every issue contains important and useful information to help you realize the "ladylike" qualities within yourself.

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CLASSIC CURVES INTERNATIONAL



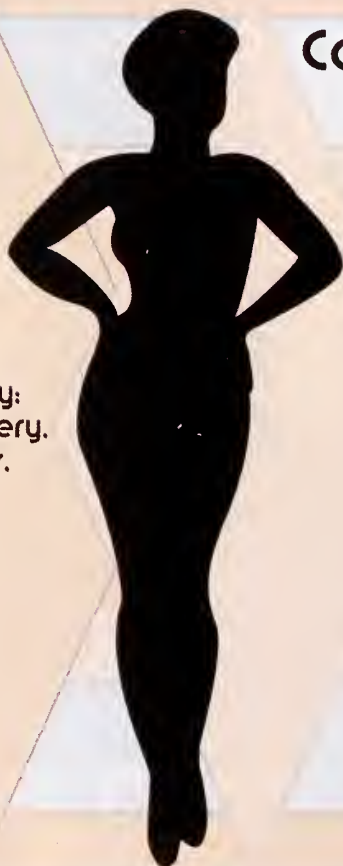
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JoAnn Roberts
mine...*



For the Mirror



Wilma
Rotterdam, Netherlands
wchres@xs4all.nl

Cena Williams, #2710



Wendi Darling
dnew51@aol.com

Esprit 2007

By Barbara Anne Love

What the heck is Esprit? Well, it's a line of women's clothing for one thing, and that's very appropriate since Esprit is also one of the TG community's premier events! (The clothing line is not in any way affiliated with the Esprit event.) This week-long, annual event, held at the Red Lion Inn, in picturesque Port Angeles, Washington, is a whirlwind of unique feminine experiences including social events, travel, education, community service, personal growth and relaxation. Every Esprit is an opportunity for you to explore your transgendered life. It's a time to talk to other attendees and educators who have vastly differing levels of experience, views, and professions. There are opportunities to attend a wide variety of classes which cover specific feminine and transgender topics.

The highlights of each Esprit are the must-do Fashion Show sponsored by two local businesses, the Fashion Bug and Justin Love, featuring two dozen of the radiant attendees modeling a sport outfit and a formal outfit.

And that's not all! Take the Coho ferry ride to Victoria, British Columbia, for a magic horse-drawn carriage ride followed by high-tea at the Empress Hotel.

Bring lots of Kleenex to the Saturday graduation ceremony for first-time attendees where each receives

her coveted Esprit Butterfly. Immediately following the ceremony there is a formal graduation dinner and Debutante Ball during which the Harriet Sykes award winner is chosen from among the first-time attendees.

Bring your dancing shoes, but be ready to rock in high heels to multiple live music events, some of which feature Nasty Habits, a talented transgender band from Seattle. The attendees-only talent show is an eye popping event with an unbelievable breadth of talent.

There is something for everybody at Esprit's special theme evenings and the workshops cover a broad spectrum of subjects, from how to be a lady, to SRS, and most everything else in between! There is even a free clothing boutique devoted to assisting first-time attendees put together a classy wardrobe—lord knows one can't just wear lingerie out in public.

Selected vendors are in attendance to assist you in selecting the most appealing wig, corset, makeup, jewelry, and attire, and there is a professional photographer in residence, who will take your photo for the Esprit Yearbook—that cherished piece of memorabilia (included in the registrations fee!), or a special drop-dead glamour shot that will always bring back your special Esprit memories.

Whether you are fresh out of the closet and just



learning to dance in heels, or a serious princess attending for the eighteenth time, the sharing of personal experiences with new and old friends from



all across the US and Canada is the best part of the event. Esprit is both a life and mind-altering event. And don't forget your digital camera! Make your plans now for May 2007. Esprit is sponsored jointly by Emerald City, The Northwest Gender Alliance (NGWA), and the Cornbury Society.

Esprit 2007

<http://www.espritconf.com/>

Esprit Conference

P.O. Box 3321

Redmond, WA 98073



ONE OF THE NEAT THINGS ABOUT THIS LIFE IS HOW WE GET TO SEE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SIDE OF PEOPLE.



WOO HOO! HIYA "GIRLS"! HA HA! TIME TO EAT, DRINK AND BE "MARY"! HA HA! GET IT?! HA HA! MARY! HA HA!



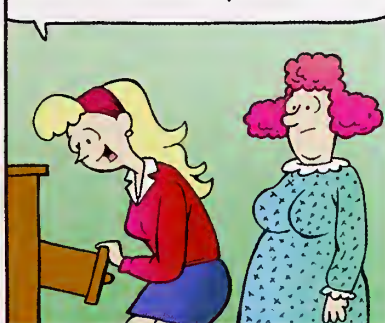
THERE'S A GOOD EXAMPLE.

RIGHT. WHO KNEW THAT JERRY FALWELL HAD IT IN HIM?



Lexy Tranner Weekend CD

LOOK AT ALL THIS STUFF I'VE BOUGHT OVER THE YEARS! MAKEUP BRUSHES, LIPSTICKS...



... ELECTROLYSIS PEN, HAIR DRYER, EYELASH CURLER, EYEBROW TWEEZER, AND... OH MY! GET A LOAD OF THIS !!



A HAMMER!

HEAVENS, LEXY! WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU BUY THAT FOR?!



Mirror
Mirrors



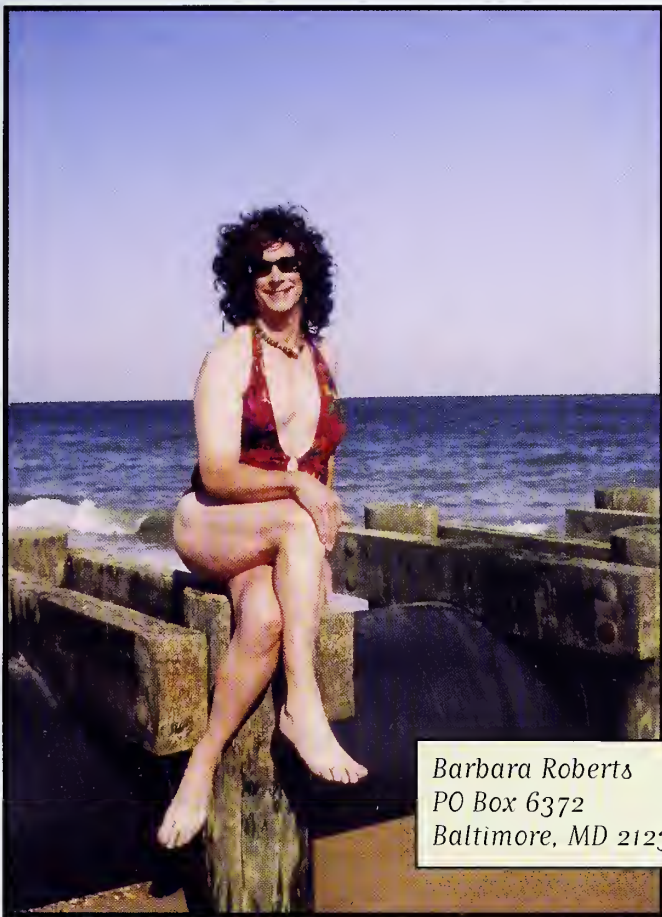
Aisselle-Minou
(Roxanne Van Ness) #2124,
Canada



Alison, #4024, Maryland,
Photo by Allison Markus



Sally, #4374



Barbara Roberts
PO Box 6372
Baltimore, MD 21230



Beverly. #3903



Erica Doran
Wisconsin



Jennifer Joy O'Neil
PMB 388, 8001 Caster Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19152-2701



An interview with Olivia Connors,
Be-All Chair

By Leigh Smythe, a Minnesota TG

I had the distinct privilege of speaking with Olivia Connors, the Chair of the group of people who have worked so hard to plan and bring this TG convention together. If for some reason you're not familiar with it, Be-All is an annual convention open to all crossdressers, transsexuals, MtF, FtM, wives and partners. This year it will be held at the Double Tree hotel, in Downer's Grove, Illinois from May 29 through June 3 (Tue. through Sun.), 2007 The website is: <http://www.be-all.org>.

During these few days attendees can choose from an impressive array of seminars on make up, hair, and dressing, various surgical options, health and hormones, cultural aspects of transgenderism, and philosophical/spiritual ideas about being trans. There will also be vendors with shops and booths in the main atrium with a variety of wares you may need, or want.

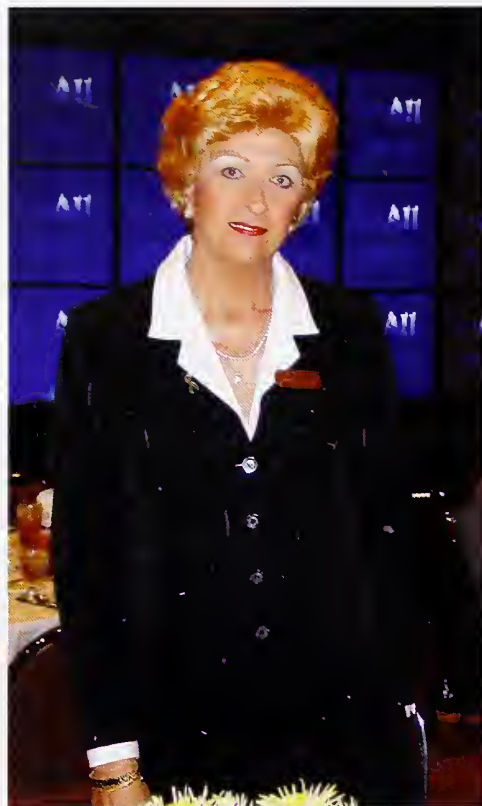
L: Hi, Olivia. You have been involved in the Be-All for quite some time, is that right?

O: I'm the chair of the Be-All Conference. I, along with Julie Johnson, oversee the committees and volunteers for the conference, among so many other things. I've been involved since the Be-All became a permanent part of Chicago in 2002. At that time, I was president of Chicago Gender Society and we were

asked if we could help out Chi Chapter Tri-Ess with the conference. We agreed, with some stipulations, and now the Be-All is it's own entity and certainly one of the best transgender conferences in the country. It's been a great opportunity and a great success for everyone.

L: This is to be the 25th anniversary and the sixth year in Chicago. What special plans do you have for this conference?

O: The Be-All has grown tremendously over the last six years because of the committees and volunteers and what we have to offer. This year we are focusing on the 25th Anniversary Celebration, and a celebration it will be! This is a huge mark for any conference, relationship, business, etc. and we also have to keep in mind all the past organizers



of the Be-All who have kept this conference afloat for sooooo many years. They built it, we've enhanced it.

L: How do you, personally, feel about being involved with this kind of a project?

O: I joined the gender community in 1987 and have loved every minute of my involvement. Some of my very best friendships have been formed in this community. Being a part of the community is rewarding in itself, but digging in deeper is the best. I have been involved for the last eleven years as Vice-President and President of Chicago Gender Society and I'm currently part of the Be-All. One of my good friends said I do this because I have an ego. Initially, I was taken aback by her comment because I never considered myself as having a huge ego. But we all have to have some ego otherwise we wouldn't exist. Just like cholesterol levels, there is good ego and bad ego. If one is so full of themselves, it's their responsibility to lower their bad ego.

L: I understand that you have committed to the entire hotel, how many attendees do you expect?

O: That is so hard to predict. We have grown at a pace of 10 to 15% each year. Last year the total registered number of attendees was over four hundred. If we stay on that scale we may have close to five hundred. The numbers are important but the larger you get, as co-coordinators, you risk losing that personal touch. You can't control it. For the last five years, we have tried to treat all the attendees with warmth and friendliness. We never want to loose that personal touch with the attendees. The hotel is a beautiful property. It's a little different than most in design and we are sure everyone will be pleased. Wait till you taste the cookies.

L: Do you know if you will have any special attending guests? Do you expect people from other conferences?

O: Over the years we've had many guest speakers from all walks of life. We only do one keynote speaker each year at one of the luncheons. We try to entertain at our luncheons and we've done everything from American Idol contest to Trans-Jeopardy to the ever so standard fashion shows. We believe the luncheons should be a break from the seriousness of some of the seminars so we try to keep them light. We will be having key people from other conventions this year as we've had in the past. This is a standard.

L: Anything special planned for the banquets? I remember last year we enjoyed the drag show by Stella Productions at one of the evening dinners. Another night we all packed up and went to see the president of CGS, Stevie Conlon perform with her band, Barely Standing, at a local club.

O: Saturday night will knock you out. The banquet space we have reserved is unbelievable. The best I've





ever seen. We were very lucky to get it because it's normally booked for years. This will be the red carpet treatment from beginning to end. Seriously, wear the best gown you have and when you arrive, just imagine you're a Hollywood star at the Golden Globes or Oscar night. It's going to be very cool!

L: I know this is on the website but can you give us an idea of the schedule outline for the conference?

O: Well, here are the bullet points with a little more detail. Of course, the first obligation is to register, you can't attend any of these functions unless you have your official credentials.

- Tuesday: Welcoming reception in our hospitality suite, great food, great drinks, great conversations, seeing past friends and making new friends, plus a raffle to win back your registration fee.

- Wednesday: Vendors are open all day. Optional Arlington Park Horse Racing Day Excursion-Gala Pool Party and swim-wear fashion show from vintage to current styles. Hospitality suite. Evening entertainment in the lounge.

- Thursday: Seminars start; Lunch with day-to-evening Fashion Show; Optional golf outing at local course; Optional off-site trip to Drury Lane Theater with dinner; Late night excursion to club featuring Stevie Conlon's band, sponsored by Dr. Zukowski.



- Friday: Lunch in the Atrium; Seminars; Hospitality suite; Evening Buffet Dinner, Entertainment and Dancing.

- Saturday: 25th Anniversary Celebration; Red carpet photo op, limousine service to beautiful banquet space on Lake Esplanade, Formal Dinner, Group Photo, Professional Entertainment and dancing till you drop.

L: I understand the banquet on Lake Esplanade is in a round, glass enclosed pavilion overlooking the lake. A very spectacular setting, just made for pictures! Are you going to have the services of the same tech crew who have done such a wonderful job in the past?

O: Our technicians are never leaving us. It's a pact we've all made. Actually, the Be-All has the best group of committees and volunteers anyone could ask for.





Current Queens

by Vicky Vogue

Ari Monroe



They call her The African Queen and when you see her you know why. Her name is Ari Monroe (a nom de performer) and she is a gorgeous full-figured woman in her prime ("mid" fifties). The reason we are not using her real name is that there are times and places where Ari cannot be fully "out" so she asked us to respect her anonymity for this article.

I interviewed Ari on a Sunday afternoon at her home in a city in upstate New York. I'd like

to comment on her home a bit because I think it speaks very definitely to who and what Ari is. It's a warm, gracious and pleasantly cluttered home filled with pa-

pers, books, works of art and artifacts, and most of all zillions of glorious photographs that tell in wonderful pictorial form the birth and development of The African Queen.

Ari has just arrived home from church and



she is dressed exquisitely in church lady finery. Her long black skirt gracefully clings to those juicy curves as she bustles about making us a pot of hot tea on a very cold day. Her full bust and arms are encased



in a tomato red sweater set, and her silvery hair is pulled tightly back and pinned up into a perfectly styled chignon. Really everything about Ari is perfectly styled. She is obviously a woman with exquisite taste who has learned how to use it to the

optimum advantage in presenting herself at her very best, and her very best is magnificent.

I learn from Ari that her title, The African Queen, derived from her foundation of a transgender support group for persons of color called The African American Queens Association. Ari was the first Chair of the organization, and coincidentally the current Chair is Keke Velasquez who was our Current Queen in the last issue of *LadyLike* magazine. The intervening years, between Ari and Keke were filled with the many tantalizingly exotic names of people Ari told me about. I can only imagine the many fancies and follies of all those colorful exciting years.

Ari was the oldest child of a blue collar family. Her father worked in a steel mill and her mother was a nursing assistant.



African American Queens Association

The MOCHA Project
531 Virginia St.
Buffalo, NY 14202

For more information contact us at 852-1142

The mission of the African Queens Association is to acknowledge the broad, diverse community of Trans-persons of color. We provide a safe place to voice the concerns of our community.



Together they instilled in Ari the manners and morals that have continued with her throughout her life. She is very much indebted to them for the training and upbringing that prepared her to become today's African Queen.

After she finished her schooling Ari held a number of jobs. One of which she seems most proud of is her employment as an art instructor, which is something she does on a part time basis. She showed me some of her art work, including a work in progress of two nude male figures lying in each other's arms. I could see the talent there, and I could also see the love. I don't believe you could paint the way Ari does if you didn't love the people and things you painted.

Ari's present employment is as a public servant in a position that presents daily challenges to her strength and self-esteem. She also spoke briefly about a very interesting passion that she has in life. Surprisingly she is an avid motorcyclist. Obviously the "real" Ari is unknown to her biking buddies. I found these aspects of her life curious but at the same time very delightful. The



African Queen is a many splendored queen.

As a transgendered person Ari's burning passion is about being an advocate for the concerns and issues of transgendered people and she recently held the position of Co-Chair in a local support organization called Spectrum. I had heard of Spectrum from a woman named Camille Hopkins who founded it. Camille is a friend of mine and someone I hold in very high regard for the contributions she has made to the TG community and to the local gay community. She and Ari are long time friends and have shared many of the same experiences on their journey together.

Naturally I had to ask Ari about her love life. I am an incurable romantic and I cannot resist. The African Queen did not disappoint! She told me her tale of a beautiful albeit tragic and doomed relationship with the handsome man in many of her photographs. They are not together, so there is no happy ending to tell. But the joyful feelings that Ari described made beautiful memories for her that will definitely never end.

Beautiful memories are so much a part of Ari's story, and yet she is young enough to make many, many more of them. She left me with a saying that I thought was especially appropriate. She said, "some women ain't ladies and some ladies ain't women".

The African Queen is a lady and a woman.



Pricilla Barker-Knowles
Connecticut



Chloe Prince, Akron, OH

Billie
PO Box 2490
New York, NY 10009



Jackie Thomas, #3392



Joy Kamei
1882, N. Los Robles Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91104

Mirror Mirror



Paula Summers
PO Box 1964
Apopka, FL 32704



Jennifer Joy O'Neil
PMB 388, 8001 Caster Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19152-2701



Angela Gardner



Roberta, #3637



Kyra Kelly

Barbara, #4437, Southampton, UK



Cena Williams, #2710



Amanda Richards

I've been a glamour girl for a long time now. One thing I've learned over the years is that beauty is a hard, dirty business. It takes hours to prepare and even more hours to undo all that glamorous work. If you are like me, you don't have 24/7 to work on your look.

You need some help. I decided that this issue would be devoted to helpful items, products and techniques that I have come across in the many, many, many, many (oh you get the idea) years that I've been doing this.

Artificial Nails

I used to always glue the longest nails I could find on my own fingers. I would do it in a mad rush, after doing my makeup. I always screwed up at least one, and sometimes dripped nail glue on the sink, (you can ask my friend Melissa for confirmation on that one, I'm sure she still has a little hard glob of glue on the sink in her spare bathroom.)

Then, thankfully, they came out with pre-glued press on nails. What a miracle, lots of colors, and the glue even worked pretty well. They have since even added a little pad to the kits to use on your fingers before attaching them. This makes the nails stick even better. All good things must come to an end though—well sort of. They still make the nails, but I can only find them in French manicure. While that is a very nice style, this girl needs colors; purple, brown, gold, pink, and of course red! A terrible dilemma that some of you, no doubt, share.

Never fear though. I have come up with a solution. I now paint the pre-glued nails ahead of time in a rainbow of colors so that I will have a set for every occasion. I use a styrofoam wig head, some t-pins, a set of those lovely French manicure nails, and one of my favorite nail polishes.

Step 1: Take a dozen or so t-pins and arrange them on the Styrofoam head leaving a little space between them.

Step 2: Open the pre-glued nails and place them one by



one on top of the t-pins, adhesive side down. They will stick and stay in place.

Step 3: Paint each nail with the polish. You will need to be a little careful so that you don't knock the nail off the pin or put too much polish on. Use two or three coats on each nail to get a good finish. Let stand for at least one hour.

Step 4: Remove each of the nails and replace them in the container they came in. Close it up and store it until you are ready to use them. If you are careful you can get three or four uses out of each set.

Breast Form Glue Solvent

If you are like me you have a pair of silicone breast forms and some spray on adhesive to attach them to your chest. I use Hollister #7730 spray adhesive. If used properly it will hold your forms on securely for hours, or even days at a time. Hollister and many other companies also sell adhesive removal products. The aerosol spray version that Hollister markets is basically



useless. It evaporates almost instantly and you cannot get the adhesive off. Other liquids are harsh on your skin, so you need to wear gloves. In addition they are very slow to remove the product.

A friend of mine recently reminded me of a product that I had seen around years ago. It is called De-solv-it. The product has no harsh chemicals. It is citrus based and has a lovely aroma. Best of all, this stuff really works! It will clean adhesive right off and leave your forms looking like new. Just spray it on, and wipe it off. If you have a large amount of adhesive built up on the

forms, pour some De-Solv-It on a plate and let them sit and soak in it for a while. Then just wipe off the remaining adhesive.

Nasty Back Hair

It never ceases to amaze me that the hair which used to be on top of my head reappears in some of the most inconvenient places. In the past few years the amount of hair on my back has increased. It's still not a forest, but it has reached the point where I need to do something about it. For a couple of years I have struggled to reach each little hair with a razor or other grooming device. I even taped a razor to a stick once. It worked fine until the tape gave way. It has been a very frustrating problem.

The other day I was listening to the radio (Sirius OutQ 106) and heard an advertisement for a new product called The Man Groomer. They described it as being like a beard trimmer on the end of a flexible arm.



I had to check this out! I went to the web site, www.mangroomer.com for a look see. This thing looked awesome. It was just as I imagined it should be. It's a little hair trimmer with a flexible arm designed onto its tail end. You can bend it every which way and reach anywhere you need to get to. I have since purchased

and used it. It is great! No more straining into yoga positions just to get at the little hairs in the small of my back. It costs \$39.95 plus shipping and handling. It is worth every single penny. I urge you to buy one before you wear that strapless, backless gown to your next formal gathering. There is no longer any excuse for hairs sticking out anywhere!

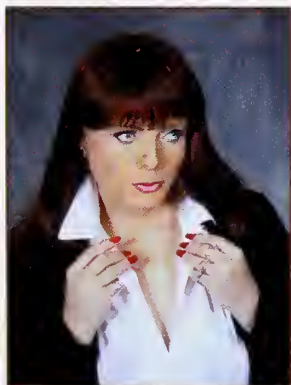
Makeup Remover

I have lots of girls coming through my makeup and photography studio each week. Most of them want to come in as boys and leave the same way. This means that I need to have some pretty good makeup remover for them to use. I keep wipes, and facial wash handy, but the best product I have found is called Albolene. It is not a new product, or even a fancy one. It comes in a blue and white jar, and looks a lot like Vaseline. Don't let the modest looks fool you though. This stuff is awesome. You can use it on your face, and even in your eyes. It dissolves makeup like magic, and leaves your skin beautifully soft and moisturized. This is not a new product or heavily marketed. You can find it at your local drugstore, but you might have to look hard. It is readily available on the Internet through lots of different sites.



These are just a few of the tricks and tools that allow me to survive the world of glamour with my sanity intact. I hope that they will be of help to you as well. I'm always looking for new products and ideas. If you want to tell me about something you have found or have a question for me, feel free to contact me: amanrich@aol.com, or through my web site www.truecolorsmakeup.com.

True Colors Makeup Artistry *by Amanda Richards*



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On My Mind



Just Wait... It'll Change

I had just finished writing about our new web site (www.lmag.com) for the last issue when everything changed... for the good... I hope.

Many of you know that I have been a partner in TGForum since its inception in 1994. TGForum is the oldest and largest TG resource on the Net. Its library holds thousands of articles which were published weekly for nearly 12 of the last 13 years.

Over the past 18 months, TGForum had not been performing as advertised. Its editor and publisher, my good friend and business partner, Cindy Martin, had become burned out and found it difficult to put in the time at TGForum due to other pressures and interests.

I suggested to Cindy it was time for her to retire from TGForum and she agreed, turning over all the assets to me. So, as of February 1st, I became the owner, publisher and editor-in-chief of TGForum. I asked Angela to be the managing Editor and she agreed. Astra is looking at the site design and also writing.

Now, a lot of the services Angela and I had thought about providing *LadyLike* subscribers at the *LadyLike* website are already in place at the TGForum website. TGF has some free content but most of it is for subscribers-only. We planned that for the *LadyLike* site, too. We wanted to have a way for people to post their own photos at the *LadyLike* site. TGF already has that capability. So, with TGForum now under the control of the same people who produce *LadyLike* it seemed obvious to integrate the two publications, and that's what we're doing.

LadyLike subscribers now have access to TGForum online and TGForum subscribers now have access to the print publication *LadyLike*. If you are reading this for the first time, just go to any of our websites (www.cdspub.com) or (www.lmag.com) or (www.tgforum.com) and click on the link for a subscription.

If you've been a *LadyLike* subscriber for a while then you will be receiving a letter from us soon about how to get online access to TGForum. Current TGForum subscribers have a choice of staying with online access

only or receiving both *LadyLike* and TGForum.

Okay, so besides reading the great extra content at TGForum, what else do you get? Every member of TGForum gets a free email account and space to build their own website. Along with that is a members-only Chat room and a BBS. Members also have access to the TGForum Resource Database with listings of support groups, attorneys, therapists, doctors and businesses from all over the world. But perhaps the neatest feature is the TGF Library with nearly 7000 searchable articles, news items, pictorials, cartoons and more.

I will continue the policy of posting fresh content at TGForum weekly; it just won't be as intense as it was under Cindy. However, by the time each month is up, you will have received a boatload of exclusive content you will not find anywhere else on the Net.

I will also continue the policy of providing free web space to legitimate TG support groups at the TGForum Community Center (www.transgender.org). This is our way of giving something back to the TG community.

So, drop by TGForum and take a look at the future of the best transgender publication on the planet.

20 Years of Parties!

We are celebrating our 20th year of producing fantasy getaway weekend events for TGs and their partners. And, while this is our 20th year doing so, it will actually be our 35th event as we used to produce two events a year in the Poconos. That makes the 2007 *Beauty and the Beach* event doubly special.

To mark this special occasion we have some very special gifts to award at the event including a full-length mink coat. Granted, it's not brand-new, but it's a **mink coat!** To be eligible for the coat or any of our special prizes, you *must* register for BATB 2007 *before* July 1, 2007.

In fact, it behooves you to register early not only for the prizes but also because the prices will increase after July 1, 2007. So, save yourself some dough and maybe win a mink coat. Register early, either online or request a brochure by mail.

Stay frosty!

—JoAnn Roberts



TG Forum



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Welcome To The All New TGForum!

Now, the two best publications in the TG Community are one!
***LadyLike* Magazine and TGForum are both published by CDS, Inc.**
Subscribers to one now get the other as well.

New Content!

We've added new blog-based content at TGForum and a host of new writers. Plus, we will be posting extra *LadyLike* content at TGForum, too. No other transgender site offers you this dazzling combination of print and online material. Come visit and comment directly to the writing staff.

Features!

We've made it easier to access the over seven thousand articles in TGForum's Library. We have Personal Profiles, News items of timely interest, Pictorials, an Art Gallery, and much more. No one else offers you the depth of features than TGForum.

Services!

TGForum offers a variety of services that allow you to connect with the rest of the transgender world on the Net. You can have a personal email account, as well as a web site at no extra cost. Like to Chat? Chat to your heart's content on our safe members-only Chat room. We also have an open BBS where you can post questions and reply to topics of interest. Want more? How about a Shopping Mall of vendors specifically chosen because they want your business.

Community!

TGForum hosts the TGF Community Center where any legitimate TG support group may post a website for free. For the specific details visit the Community Center at www.transgender.org

What Does It Cost?

Visit us at www.tgforum.com and check out the site for yourself. Try out the many free options. But full access to the best parts of TGForum costs only \$42 a year. That amounts to about \$0.81 per week. Where else will you get all this for that kind of money? Even a newspaper costs more these days!

Remember: TGForum gives you all the news you want... all the information you need... and a place to call home.

WWW.TGFORUM.COM

*JoAnn Roberts, Publisher • Angela Gardner, Managing Editor
Ronnie Rho, News Editor • Alaina Hardie, Sys Admin*



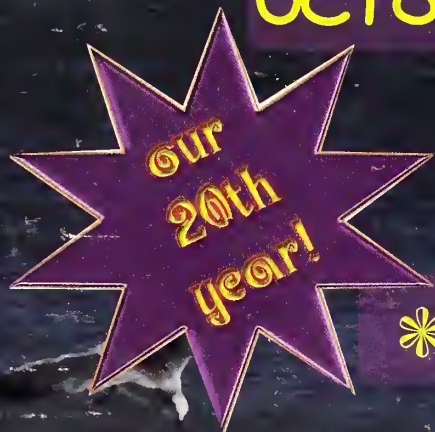
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in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

We have a beautiful resort hotel with all the amenities including a microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker and internet access in every room.

We're right on the beach, too!

October 31 - November 4, 2007



Register now before we fill up!

Full details at our website:

www.cdspub.com/batb.html

* Register by July 1st to be eligible for special door prizes including a full length mink coat *

Couples Welcome!

CDS • PO Box 491

Lionville, PA 19353-0491

610-363-7117 • batb@cdspub.com